

RHODE ISLAND

Website: www.sec.state.ri.us

Link to state election website is also available through FVAP website at www.fvap.gov

Absentee Voting Guide

FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES AND U.S. CITIZENS OVERSEAS

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RHODE ISLAND

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is the primary form for requesting registration and/or an absentee ballot from your local election official. **Read all instructions printed below and on the FPCA before completing and signing your application.**

FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION

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REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)	
1. I REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AND I AM (mark only one):	
<input type="checkbox"/> (a) A MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR MERCHANT MARINE ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR AN ELIGIBLE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> (b) A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. TEMPORARILY	
<input type="checkbox"/> (c) A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. INDEFINITELY	
2. MY INFORMATION (Required)	
a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle)	
SUFFIX (Jr., Sr., III, etc.)	
b. PREVIOUS NAME (if applicable)	
c. SEX	d. RACE
<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	e. DATE OF BIRTH
	f. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
	g. STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE OR I.D. NUMBER
h. TELEPHONE NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)	
i. FAX NUMBER (No DSN number; include all international prefixes)	
j. EMAIL ADDRESS	
3. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS (For military, use legal residence. For overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S.) (Required)	
a. NUMBER AND STREET (Cannot be a P.O. Box)	
b. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE	
c. COUNTY	
d. STATE	
e. ZIP CODE	
4. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS	
a. MY CURRENT ADDRESS (Where I live now) (Required)	
b. MY FORWARDING ADDRESS (Complete 4.b. only if you do not want your ballot mailed to the address in Block 4.a.)	
c. I PREFER TO RECEIVE MY ABSENTEE BALLOT, AS PERMITTED BY MY STATE, BY:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MAIL <input type="checkbox"/> FAX <input type="checkbox"/> EMAIL	
5. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE (Optional, but may be required by states to register to vote in primary elections):	
6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Designate the period for which you want to receive ballots — see instructions for Block 6 paragraph (3). Consult the Voting Assistance Guide for other specific state instructions.)	
7. AFFIRMATION (required)	
I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:	
1. I am a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and	
2. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction, and	
3. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated, and	
4. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S., and	
5. My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document, and	
6. The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.	
I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.	
Signed: _____ Date: _____	
(Witness/Notary and address (if required)) _____ Date: _____	

Circled letters on the form above correspond to the instructions on the following page. **You must complete all shaded areas.**

I. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR FPCA

A Your current and valid Rhode Island driver's license number is required in 2.g. If you do not have a current and valid Rhode Island driver's license number, the last four digits of your Social Security number are required in 2.f. If you do not possess either of these identifications, Rhode Island shall assign a number that will serve to identify you for voting purposes.

B Provide the complete address of your Rhode Island voting residence. A post office box is not sufficient. If your address includes a rural route, describe its location in Block 6. For example: "on Highway ____, 2 miles past Highway ____, across the street from the ____ gas station." This address must be different from the one provided in Block 4 and must be within the city or town where you claim legal voting residence.

C Print the complete address where you want your ballot sent — usually your current mailing address. Your current mailing address must be different from the address you provided in Block 3.

D See Section II.E or III.E.

E You must list a party affiliation to vote in primaries, e.g., Democrat, Republican or write "none" in Block 5 of the FPCA. Changes of party affiliation must be made on or before the 90th day before the election. Political party affiliation is not required to vote in general elections.

F You are swearing or affirming that the information provided is true and correct by signing the FPCA.

II. UNIFORMED SERVICES

A. Who Can Do It

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Rhode Island, members of the Uniformed Services and their family members, and members of religious groups or welfare agencies officially attached to the Armed Forces overseas and their spouses and dependents accompanying them outside the state. Uniformed Services are defined as the U.S. Armed Forces, merchant marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

B. Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot

You should send an FPCA to your Board of Canvassers early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter 2).

This single FPCA can be extended beyond one year to the length of the assignment at a duty station (if over one year

by completing an absentee ballot certificate. In Block 6 of the FPCA write: "I request an absentee ballot certificate (Section 17-20-9.2)." When you receive the certificate, complete the form (including your name, Rhode Island address, duty station address where you want your ballot mailed, length of time assigned to that duty station) and obtain the name and signature of the military commander.

Rhode Island waives registration.

To request an absentee ballot, the Board of Canvassers in your city or town of voting residence must receive your FPCA not later than 4:00 p.m., 21 days before the election.

C. Casting Your Vote

Ballot Return Deadline: Voted ballot must arrive at the State Board of Elections by 9:00 p.m. on election day.

State election officials begin mailing ballots approximately 21 days before the election. State elections officials will also issue an official state blank ballot 45 days before an election if the official ballot is not yet available and then will issue the official mail ballot when it becomes available.

If you have not received your official state ballot or official blank state ballot in a timely manner, use the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**. See instructions below and in Chapter 2, page 21.

D. Notary/Witness Requirements

No registration or voting materials are notarized or witnessed.

E. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- Rhode Island allows you to send the FPCA for absentee ballot request by fax. The FPCA must be received not later than 4:00 p.m., 21 days before the election. After faxing, the original FPCA must be mailed. Include your fax number on the FPCA, Item 2.i. Use fax numbers below.
- Rhode Island will transmit the appropriate ballot by fax and by mail to the voter.
- Rhode Island allows you to return the voted ballot by fax.

Please refer to Appendix B for specific instructions when transmitting election materials electronically. Use the following numbers:

DSN 223-5527
(703) 693-5527

1-800-368-8683

(from U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands only)

International toll-free fax numbers
(See inside back cover)

F. Special Write-In Absentee Ballot

Rhode Island provides an official state blank ballot 45 days before an election if the official ballot is not yet available.

G. Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

Rhode Island has expanded the use of the Federal Write-In Ballot (FWAB). The instructions described in Chapter 2 remain the same except that Rhode Island also allows the FWAB to be used to vote for offices in state and local elections.

Instructions continue in Section IV: Uniformed Services & Civilians Outside U.S.

III. CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

A. Who Can Do It

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Rhode Island and overseas citizens. The term “overseas citizen” means a U.S. citizen who resides outside the U.S. and (but for such residence) would be qualified to vote in Rhode Island.

- overseas citizens temporarily residing outside the U.S. by reason of employment by any agency, department or division of the U.S. Government, overseas citizens employed outside the U.S. and spouses and dependents of such persons (for local, state and Federal office ballots)
- “other” overseas citizens are those persons who reside outside the territorial limits of the U.S. for reasons other than employment or military service for an indefinite period of time. These voters should check (c) in Block 1 on the FPCA and are entitled to a Federal ballot only.

B. Registering and Requesting an Absentee Ballot

You should send an FPCA to your Board of Canvassers early every year and whenever you change your mailing address (see Chapter 2).

To request an absentee ballot, send the FPCA to the Board of Canvassers in your city or town of voting residence not later than 4:00 p.m., 21 days before the election.

Rhode Island waives registration for UOCAVA voters.

These forms may be requested by using the FPCA, letter, telephone, fax or email.

“Other” overseas citizens are those persons who reside outside the territorial limits of the U.S. for reasons other than employment or military service for an indefinite period

of time. These voters should check (c) in box #1 on the FPCA are entitled to a Federal ballot only.

C. Casting Your Vote

Ballot Return Deadline: Voted ballot must arrive at the state board of elections **by 9:00 p.m. on election day.**

State election officials begin mailing ballots approximately 21 days before the election. For overseas citizens employed outside the U.S., state elections officials will also issue an official state blank ballot 45 days before an election if the official ballot is not yet available and will issue the official mail ballot when it becomes available.

If you have not received your state ballot in a timely manner, use the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot**. See instructions below and in Chapter 2, page 21.

D. Notary/Witness Requirements

FPCA: No notary or witness required.

Returning a Ballot: No notary or witness required.

E. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- Rhode Island allows you to send the FPCA for absentee ballot request by fax. The FPCA must be received not later than 4:00 p.m., 21 days before the election. After faxing, the original FPCA must be mailed. Include your fax number on the FPCA, Item 2.i. Use fax numbers below.
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Instructions continue in Section IV: Uniformed Services & Civilians Outside U.S.

IV. UNIFORMED SERVICES & CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

A. Bars to Registration and Voting

No person convicted of a felony can vote until completion of the sentence, including parole or probation, regardless of a no contest plea. Upon such completion, the person's right to vote shall be restored. No person declared mentally incapable can vote.

B. Cancellation of Registration

Registration is canceled for failure to respond to confirmation mailings along with the failure to vote in the next two general (Federal office) elections.

C. Action Upon Denial of Registration or Absentee Ballot Request

Upon denial of your voter registration application or absentee ballot request, Rhode Island shall provide you with the reason(s) for the rejection. Denial of registration may be appealed to the State Board of Elections. Consult a legal assistance officer or civilian counsel.

D. Late Registration

Any member of the Armed Forces or of the merchant marine of the U.S. in active service, and any person absent from the state in the performance of "services intimately connected with military operations"; any person who is employed by any agency, department or division of the U.S. Government and who by reason of such employment resides outside of the continental U.S.; and any person employed outside the territorial limits of the U.S. shall be exempt from registration during the period of his/her service or employment for 2 years after their return to the U.S.

E. Voting By Citizens Who Have Never Lived in the U.S.

If the person is a U.S. citizen and has never lived in the U.S. but has a parent who is a qualified Rhode Island elector, then this person will be eligible to register and vote in Federal elections.

F. Where To Send It

Mail the FPCA to the **Board of Canvassers**, city or town of voting residence listed below:

City or Town	Zip Code
Board of Canvassers Barrington, RI	02806-2406
Board of Canvassers Bristol, RI	02809-2230
Board of Canvassers Burrillville, RI	02830-1420

City or Town	Zip Code
Board of Canvassers Central Falls, RI	02863-2835
Board of Canvassers Charlestown, RI	02813-3454
Board of Canvassers Coventry, RI	02816-8909
Board of Canvassers Cranston, RI	02910-2738
Board of Canvassers Cumberland, RI	02864-8351
Board of Canvassers East Greenwich, RI	02818-3808
Board of Canvassers East Providence, RI	02914-4530
Board of Canvassers Exeter, RI	02822-2446
Board of Canvassers Foster, RI	02825-1226
Board of Canvassers Glocester, RI	02814-1959
Board of Canvassers Hopkinton, RI	02833-1142
Board of Canvassers Jamestown, RI	02835-1149
Board of Canvassers Johnston, RI	02919-7191
Board of Canvassers Lincoln, RI	02865-1332
Board of Canvassers Little Compton, RI	02837-1543
Board of Canvassers Middletown, RI	02842-7264
Board of Canvassers Narragansett, RI	02882-3612
Board of Canvassers Newport, RI	02840-2792
Board of Canvassers New Shoreham, RI	02807-0220
Board of Canvassers North Kingstown, RI	02852-5767
Board of Canvassers North Providence, RI	02911-1740
Board of Canvassers North Smithfield, RI	02876-7227
Board of Canvassers Pawtucket, RI	02860-2163
Board of Canvassers Portsmouth, RI	02871-1268
Board of Canvassers Providence, RI	02903-1738
Board of Canvassers Richmond, RI	02898-1247
Board of Canvassers Scituate, RI	02857-1906
Board of Canvassers Smithfield, RI	02917-3224
Board of Canvassers South Kingstown, RI	02879-3140
Board of Canvassers Tiverton, RI	02878-4401
Board of Canvassers Warren, RI	02885-4369
Board of Canvassers Warwick, RI	02886-7145
Board of Canvassers Westerly, RI	02891-1888
Board of Canvassers West Greenwich, RI	02817-2155
Board of Canvassers West Warwick, RI	02893-4829
Board of Canvassers Woonsocket, RI	02895-4330

America, Voting Anytime, Anywhere
by Major Sadler, USA